

**Arguing from Scripture: Extracts from the *Summa
theologiae arabica* in a *membrum disjectum* of Sin. ar. 155
(MSS Munich BSB Cod. arab. 1071 + Paris BNF Syr. 378)**

Peter TARRAS

(Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich)

The collection of Arabic manuscripts of the Bavarian State Library (BSB) in Munich contains six Christian Arabic manuscripts of Sinaitic origin. One of these (MS Cod. arab. 1071) is a witness to chapters 12 and 13 of the so-called *Summa theologiae arabica*. In these chapters biblical material is employed for apologetic purposes. The Munich manuscript comprises one quire of the original codex (MS Sinai ar. 155), except for one bifolio, which found its way into the collection of the Bibliothèque nationale de France (MS Syr. 378). A further *membrum disjectum* of the original codex is now in the British Library (MS Or. 8612). Thus we know that MS Sinai ar. 155 originally not only contained Arabic translations of Ecclesiasticus and the Pauline Epistles, but also extracts from a decidedly apologetic work. The purpose of this presentation is, first, to trace the history of the quire containing the chapters from the *Summa*, and, second, to locate it within its original codicological setting. This allows us to understand the didactic rationale behind the production of MS Sinai ar. 155, viz. showing how to use biblical material for apologetic purposes, or so I shall argue.